

To Whome it May Concern:

Because of telemarketers, we have been forced to pay for an additional phone line, and pay a fee to have it "unlisted."

Our own doctor is unable to reach us directly because her office has our "telemarketing" line (the answering machine requests that we be placed on the "do-not-call" lists of telemarketing companies--we do not answer this phone). We call it our "telemarketing" line because it rings incessantly, even though we have the recording and it has been listed on the DMA's suppression list. We have complained to the FCC, in writing, e-mail and by phone; about broadcast fax companies and telemarketers. We have sent written documentation to the legal departments of companies who have violated the FCC's rules. We are very active in our pursuit of a PRIVATE life in our home. Even though we do all this -- and it has taken many hours and days of our time -- we STILL receive telemarketing calls, on a regular basis, on both our listed and unlisted lines. Many of these call are received during the middle of the night (midnight to 6:00 a.m.) and are initiated by automatic dialers. We also subscribe to Pacific Bell's "trap and trace" service which traps these calls (for a fee of almost \$5.00 per call!). Unfortunately, we have been unable to get a "match" on the numbers because so many telemarketing companies violate the time restrictions, among other laws. Pacific Bell claims to be legally unable to release the phone numbers or contact information of these callers (even to the police). Why is their (a commercial business) privacy protected, but mine (a private citizen) is not? I am not the one calling them at 3:00 a.m. If you should require any proof of these calls, you are welcome to use my records with Pacific Bell. Perhaps the government will have better luck getting that information than I have.

It is interesting that restraining orders can be used to keep private citizens from making harassing calls, but there seem to be no laws which protect us from commercial harassment (which I believe is far worse). Please feel free to contact me if there is any way I can be of service. It is the government's responsibility to protect its citizens from invasive marketing practices.

Sincerely,

J. Sharon Mickelson